

BRAINTREE & BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, Braintree.

September 1945.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a short report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District during the year 1944. This report follows the same lines as those submitted since the outbreak of war, and the work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's department is incorporated herewith.

The general health of the Urban District has remained good and apart from a slight outbreak of Scarlet Fever there has been no serious epidemic of Infectious Disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the health services provided in the District during 1944.

Legislation in Force.

No new byelaws were adopted or came into force during the year.

Staff.

In August Dr. L. Youatt, Acting Medical Officer of Health resigned owing to ill health, and in September, I accepted the appointment of Acting Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District.

Mr. H. Jepson commenced duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector on March 30th 1944, and replaced Mr. Binder who terminated his engagement on November 14th 1943.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The Notley Road and Bocking Waterworks were again used for supply purposes during the year. The average daily pumping hours are 22.

The Chlorination Plant still operates continuously.

Sampling by the Sanitary Inspector provides a monthly analysis of the water supplied to consumers, and a quarterly analysis of the raw supply.

Twelve samples were taken during the year, six from Braintree and six from Bocking.

Reports received from the County Bacteriologist were as follows:-

Braintree Supply. 30. 10. 44.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bocking Supply. 5. 6. 44.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



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Drainage and Sewerage.

Braintree Works.

Work has now commenced on the building of the new Supernatant Pump Well, the pipe lines to improve the quality of the effluence of this works which is still, however failing to comply with the County Council standard.

Bocking Works.

These works continue to produce a satisfactory effluent.

Sanitary Inspection.

During the year visits were made as a result of complaints of nuisances and of defects in dwelling houses. etc.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

A sample taken from the Council's Swimming Pool was reported to be of a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity, but an algal growth was reported as causing turbidity.

A sample taken from a privately owned Pool was reported to be of a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity.

HOUSING.

No inspections were carried out. Visits on complaint were made in respect of defects. Certain houses previously condemned under the Housing Acts were put into a reasonable state of repair and used for housing homeless persons, under temporary licences granted by the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

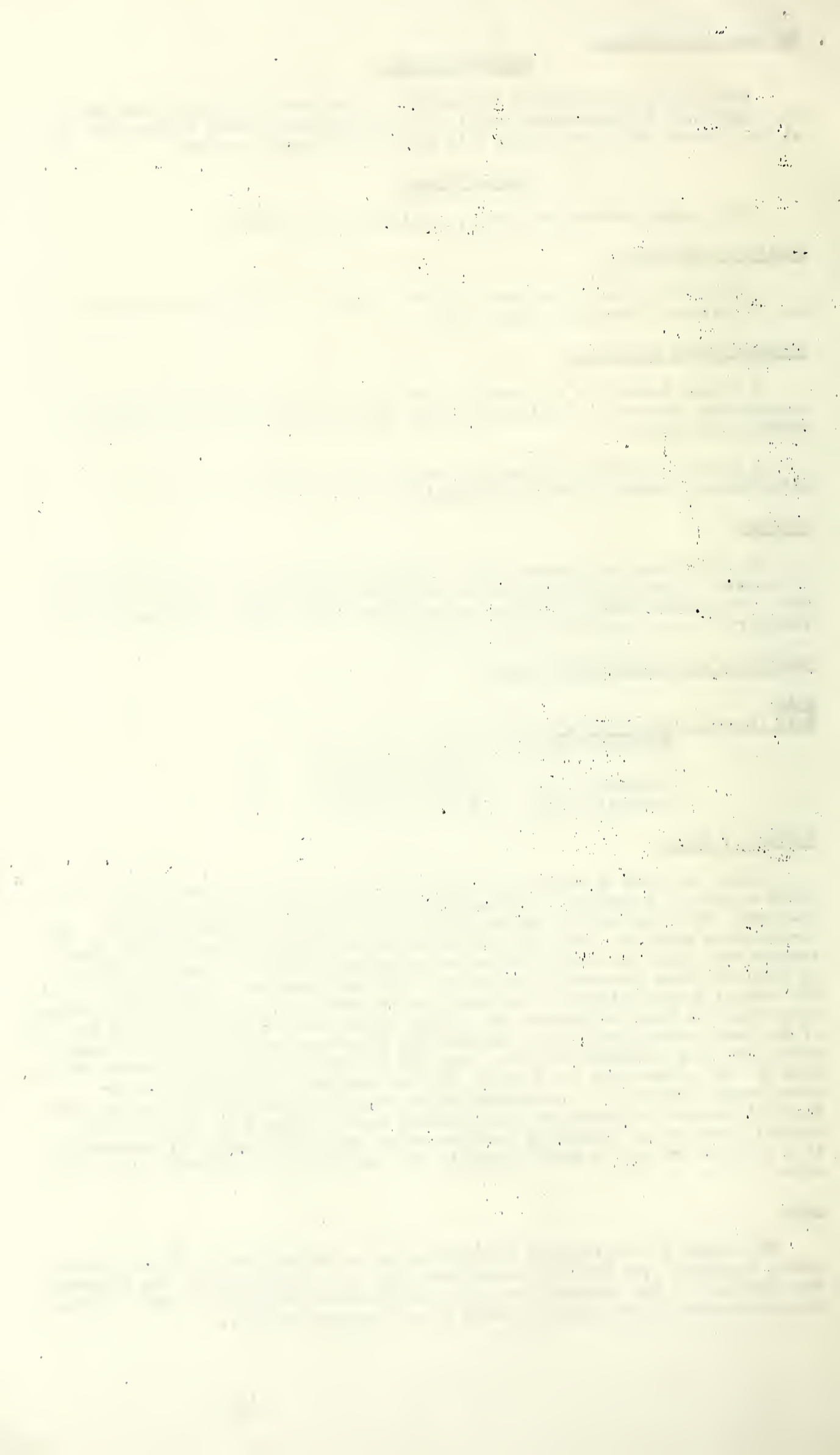
Tuberculin Tested,	Licence to bottle.	1.
	Dealers licences.	7
Pasteurised Milk	Dealers licences.	1
Accredited Milk	Dealers Licences.	1

Souring of Milk.

During the year 34 samples of milk were taken. Most of these samples were taken because of a number of complaints of the souring of milk soon after delivery. The milk was from one wholesale firm outside the Urban District. By co-operation with the local authorities concerned and the County Council, check samples were taken at various stages in production and it was shown that milk of an unsatisfactory standard was being sent into the district. A Conference of all the various bodies interested was held, and promises were given that all possible steps would be taken to improve the quality of the milk supplied. Towards the end of the year it was found that a considerable improvement had been made and the complaints from consumers stopped. From the investigations made it became obvious that the age of the milk and time lag due to transport difficulties was of considerable importance. A considerable amount of the milk produced in the Urban District is sent to London and milk consumed in the district is obtained from distant farms and is delayed by handling at the Wholesale Dairy. It transpired that owing to the way in which contracts were allocated no reorganisation could be made.

Meat.

The scheme for centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Food continued during the year. Two slaughterhouses have been used exclusively by the Ministry. The remainder of the privately owned slaughterhouses have not been used. Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district number 6, and knackers yards 1.



During the year 9338 animals were slaughtered for human consumption. Of these 9041 or 96.8% were inspected. The total amount of unsound food condemned during this period was 25.6 tons. In most cases the food was salvaged and used for trade purposes other than for human consumption.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease have been reported during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	93	Cerebro-spinal Fever	2
Diphtheria	11	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Measles	2	Erysipelas	3
Whooping Cough	19	Pneumonia	3

Scarlet Fever cases occurred during the first six months of the year and were mild in type.

One case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria proved fatal.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Sessions have been held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road, and have been well attended.

The total number of Children immunised in the Urban District at the end of 1944 was as follows:-

Children age 5 - 15 (i.e. school children)	1805
Children under 5 (i.e. pre-school children)	785.

These figures represent approximately 84% and 68% of the child population of the district in the respective age groups.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 131, and was made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non - Respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
41	34	23	33

36 new cases were notified during 1944, and were made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non - Respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
14	12	4	6

During the year there were 8 deaths of patients on the Tuberculosis Register.

EVACUATION.

During the year much progress has been made in facilitating the return of evacuees and homeless persons to their homes.

Boleyns Hostel continues to be used as a treatment hostel for evacuees from a considerable portion of Southern and Eastern Ireland.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council Officers who have kindly assisted me in compiling this report.

I am,
Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J.W.NICHOLAS.
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

